

lost or ruined. . . . It is the utmost mortification to me in this important affair, that I cannot act with the vigour which is requisite, and set a good example; but the republic must do it, and I will engage people here, by a prudent conduct, by degrees, and without perceiving it.¹

^a It is certain that William never exerted greater skill nor exercised more forbearance than in 1700-1701. He wisely decided to appeal to Parliament for its advice and support instead of ignoring it. On February 6, 1701, in his speech on opening Parliament, he desired that earnest consideration might be immediately given to the alteration in foreign affairs occasioned by the death of the King of Spain. * I make no doubt', he continued, ' but your resolutions there-upon will be such, as shall be most conducing to the interest and safety of England, the preservation of the Protestant religion in general, and the peace of all Europe/ He did not mention the increase of the army, for this might have alienated members, but urged the augmentation of the navy, ¹ which is the great bulwark of the English nation/ ² A little later he declared his pleasure that the Commons welcomed his communicating the state of negotiations he had entered into pursuant to their addresses, and expressed his conviction that nothing could so effectually contribute to the happiness of England and the peace of Europe

as the concurrence of Parliament in his negotiations and a good understanding between him and his people.³ The result of the respect William had shown was that the Speaker of the same House of Commons that had violently attacked the Partition Treaties and tried to impeach Portland, Somers, and other Whigs for their share in them, declared that they had given greater supplies than were

¹ Ibid. pp. 477-8.
1233.

² Parliamentary History, v.

³ Ibid. p. 1238.